



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## Canberra

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1988

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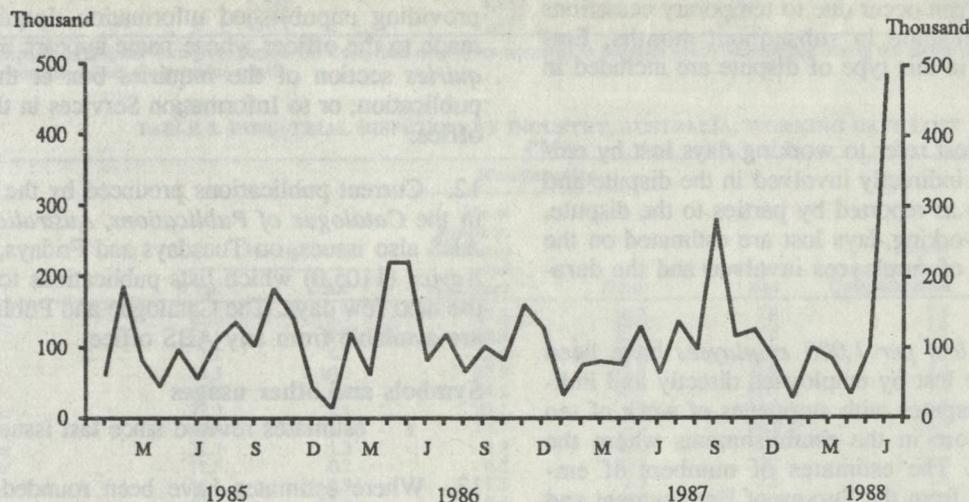
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- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.
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- *on VIATEL* — key \*656#.
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### MAIL INQUIRIES

### ELECTRONIC SERVICES

### MAIN FEATURES

#### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



## Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Survey.

## Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

## Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on

the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1986* (6101.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Trade Union Statistics, Australia, 30 June 1987* (6323.0)

*Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986* (6325.0)

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

## Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

## Symbols and other usages

r estimates revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

## Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

W. MCLENNAN  
Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Commenced in period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
		Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
1987	April	117	138	62.3	66.3	77.6
	May	126	146	80.3	106.7	131.5
	June	126	145	35.8	41.4	65.2
	July	117	135	49.7	51.5	137.8
	August	109	122	39.5	52.1	98.8
	September	114	127	60.3	84.9	282.6
	October	138	151	60.6	64.5	117.6
	November	164	178	86.0	97.8	126.7
	December	97	115	34.8	49.7	86.5
	January	81	86	12.2	12.6	29.2
	February	138	148	44.0	58.1	100.5
	March	168	187	34.7	41.9	84.8
1988	April	100	107	19.8	20.8	35.4
	May	147	159	57.4	68.5	101.0
	June	165	186	364.0	374.5	488.3
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>						
June	1986	1,802	1,826	686.0	692.1	1,446.6
	1987	1,647	1,661	580.3	585.9	1,131.4
	1988	1,538	1,556	862.9	864.7	1,689.3
December	1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
	1986	1,680	1,687	673.9	691.7	1,390.7
	1987	1,471	1,475	602.8	605.3	1,316.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	Manufacturing						
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Other				
1987	April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	7.5
	May	30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	9.1
	June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	7.7
	July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	137.8
	August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	98.8
	September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	108.9
	October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	282.6
	November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	25.1
	December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	117.6
	January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	54.7
	February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	86.5
	March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	29.2
1988	April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	6.4	84.8
	May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	35.4
	June	123.5	5.6	168.1	15.6	64.6	101.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
June	1986	361.2	160.9	159.8	190.3	176.0	229.0
	1987	172.3	124.1	180.3	230.9	122.3	1,131.4
	1988	446.3	61.0	294.8	151.0	249.3	1,689.3
December	1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	263.7
	1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	281.4
	1987	291.1	55.7	199.6	195.5	202.4	1,316.4

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(a)
1987	April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1
	May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	131.5
	June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	65.2
	July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	137.8
	August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	98.8
	September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	282.6
	October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	117.6
	November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	126.7
	December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	86.5
	January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	29.2
	February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	100.5
	March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	84.8
1988	April	10.7	11.9	3.3	1.3	5.3	35.4
	May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	101.0
	June	269.0	64.7	94.2	23.4	24.8	488.3
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
June	1986	599.4	382.0	246.4	41.6	108.9	32.9
	1987	462.8	356.6	104.0	34.3	134.1	18.4
	1988	904.9	296.5	229.4	63.4	139.1	30.5
December	1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7
	1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2
	1987	741.5	289.3	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication		Other industries (b)		
	Coal	Other	Other							
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248		
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228		
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
1986—										
June	10,751	2,867	374	309	688	400	60	256		
1987—										
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	476	98	65	195		
July	5,658	2,071	468	339	617	80	63	198		
August	6,046	1,571	485	355	648	83	67	203		
September	8,793	1,401	512	290	770	91	90	233		
October	8,757	1,427	497	281	829	149	91	238		
November	8,884	1,283	474	287	808	158	84	231		
December	8,902	1,069	479	305	773	217	69	223		
1988—										
January	9,243	818	474	302	771	213	69	222		
February	9,829	982	481	286	764	216	70	225		
March	10,774	1,091	440	280	716	214	71	225		
April	r10,461	r1,077	r384	r265	r705	208	72	218		
May	r10,436	r1,111	r336	233	r735	r201	73	212		
June	14,170	1,123	715	234	910	235	93	282		

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

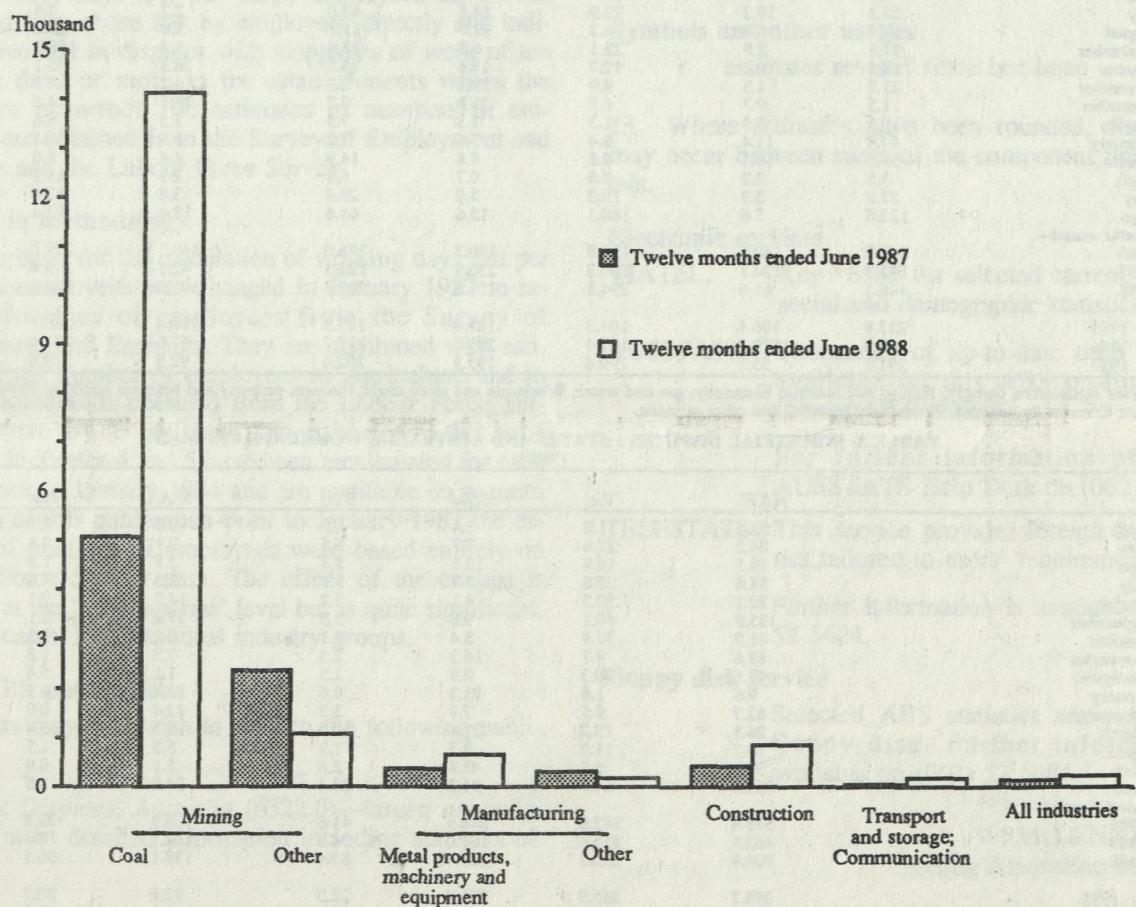


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
<i>1986—</i>							
June	309	245	297	87	213	217	256
<i>1987—</i>							
June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195
July	226	208	110	83	231	150	198
August	229	229	106	88	199	159	203
September	299	235	94	92	243	162	233
October	309	240	91	96	242	160	238
November	328	198	90	93	235	148	231
December	340	164	87	91	212	177	223
<i>1988—</i>							
January	336	162	101	90	192	177	222
February	343	156	107	100	208	180	225
March	335	151	129	97	218	194	225
April	r314	151	129	96	r221	191	218
May	293	139	173	90	r226	181	212
June	403	165	269	126	257	195	282

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

